

Homenaje a



Pablo Neruda!

Pablo Neruda 1904 -1973

A life of struggle.

Blood-red was...

Blood-red was all the earth of mankind.
Time, buildings, routes, rain,
rub out the constellations of the crime,
the fact is that so small a planet
was drenched in blood a thousand times,
war or vengeance, trap or battle,
men fell, subsumed into the ground,
next oblivion was cleansing
every square metre: sometimes
a blank lying monument,
sometimes a seal of bronze,
next conversations, births,
municipalities, and oblivion.
What arts we have for extermination
and what science for rooting out memories!
The earth is flowery which was blood-red.
Get ready, young people,
to kill once more, die once more,
and cover the blood with flowers.

(translation: John Manson)

Pablo Neruda, the internationally acclaimed Latin American poet, was born in Parral, Chile. In 1920 he went to Santiago to study at the university and this is where he published his first three books. The third of these, twenty love poems and a song of despair, brought him fame and recognition when he was still only twenty years of age.

From 1927 to 1945 he served as Chilean consul in Rangoon, Java and Barcelona. While travelling from place to place he wrote continuously. Greatly influenced by the Spanish Civil war and the death of Federico García Lorca, Neruda joined the Chilean Communist Party in 1945. The direction of the poet's work changed, from '36 onwards it would be addressed more to ordinary folk rather than just being an elite pursuit of the rich and educated.

In 1943 Pablo Neruda returned home to Chile where, after two years work, he was elected Senator for the provinces of Tarapaca and Antofagasta by the folk who mined for copper and nitrate in this inhospitable desert region.

Throughout this period his books were being published and translated into all the main languages of the world. From 1949 to 1952, Pablo was forced into exile by a corrupt government led by Gabriel Gonzalez.

Always a prolific poet, Neruda continued to write poetry throughout his life and in 1971 he was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature. From 1970 to 1973 he served under his friend, Allende, as Chilean ambassador to Paris.

Pablo Neruda died on the 23rd September 1973, shortly after the coup in Chile which ousted and murdered Allende. Pablo Neruda's funeral became the first public demonstration against the military government: he had died and was buried in the same manner in which he had lived his life, fighting for socialism, peace and justice.

Bobby Christie Aug/1993

Homenaje a Pablo Neruda!

friday 17th Sept. 7 - 10pm

Janet Paisley
Tom Leonard
Jim Ferguson
Margaret Cook
Edwin Morgan
reading Neruda
Lore Gallastegi
music from
Three Fine Fleadhs
MC: Jim McSharry
bar • raffle

saturday 18th Sept. 12 - 5pm

~~12.30~~ 1.20
Neruda's life & work
Christopher Perriam

1.20 - 2.10
working class writing
Karen Thompson

2.10 - 3.00
Cernuda's life & work
Juan Luis Campos

3.00 - 3.50
small press publishing
Ramsey Kanaan

3.50 - ~~4.40~~
literature & politics
Ruben Romero

bookstalls
creche
(creche funded by the STUC)

saturday 18th Sept. 7 - 11pm

Agnes Owens
Tony Palumbo
Mgt. McQuade McAuslan
Jim Kelman
Karen Thomson
Bobby Christie
reading Neruda
John Manson
Jose Comas
music from
John Higgins
Close Cover
MC: Jim McSharry
bar • raffle

**evening readings £2.50 (waged) £1.50 (unwaged)
afternoon talks - free**

contributors

Juan Luis Campos: Mexican poet, currently researching Cernuda & living in Edinburgh

Bobby Christie: Lives & writes in Glasgow, co-editor of Neruda Press

Close Cover: close harmony, a cappella trio

Jose Comas: Spanish schoolteacher now living & working in Scotland

Margaret Cook: poet & editor of West Coast Magazine

Jim Ferguson: lives & writes in Glasgow, co-editor of Neruda Press

Lore Gallastegi: Basque activist resident in Glasgow

John Higgins: fingerstyle steel/string acoustic guitar player,

Ramsey Kana distributor & publisher with A K Press

Jim Kelman: long & short story writer

Tom Leonard: poet, critic & pamphleteer

Margaret McQuade McAuslan: Glasgow writer & feminist

Jim McSharry: playwright & poet, lives and works in Govan

John Manson: retired teacher & crofter, translator of French & Spanish, critic & poet

Edwin Morgan: celebrated Glasgow poet, author of many collections

Agnes Owens: Scottish prose writer, resident of Balloch

Janet Paisley: poet & prose writer, author of *Wildfire*

Tony Palumbo: poet whose work explores Latin American themes

Dr. Christopher Perriam: lecturer in Spanish at Durham University, author of *The Late Poetry of Pablo Neruda*

Ruben Romero: Chilean, student of Neruda, now residing in Glasgow

Karen Thomson: poet who lives & writes in Glasgow

Three Fine Fleadhs: contemporary, funky, folk

Now all the hours...

Now all the hours begin to fall
into the well, into the trap, into time:
they are slow and yet they took no respite,
they go on falling, meeting
first like fishes
then like thrown stones or bottles.
Down below they understand each other
the hours and the days,
and the months,
and blurred memories,
unpartnered nights,
clothes, women, trains and provinces,
time builds up
and every hour
melts into silence,
crumbles and falls
to the acid of all the ruins,
to the black water
of the inverted night.

(translation: John Manson)



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John McGarrigle, Jim Ferguson, Brendan McLaughlin, Paul Anderson,
Jim McSharry, Alex McLaverty, & George

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